

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted preliminarily to the issuance of an Office Action in the above identified application.

With the present Amendment applicants have provided a certified translation of the priority document. It is therefore believed that the prior art cited in the parent application can not be considered as a valid reference and the rejection over the prior art should be withdrawn.

In the telephonic conference the Examiner indicated that he located a new reference. However, it was stated that the reference did not teach such a dial which is in contact with the printed circuit board. In connection with this, applicants have amended claim 16, the broadest claim on file, to define that the shaft drive device for a pointer of a gauge instrument has a dial which is arranged on the front side of the printed circuit board and in contact with the printed circuit board. It is believed that this feature of the present invention patentably distinguishes the present invention from the prior art located by the Examiner.

Claim 16 should also be considered as patentably

distinguishing over the art and should also be allowed.

As for the dependent claims, these claims depend on the independent claims, they share its presumably allowable features and therefore they should be allowed as well.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance, he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Striker
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 27233